

part of it has to do with trust, but there's got to be tangible progress; I recognize that. And so I will use my trip to urge the leadership to continue solving this issue, with the idea that it can be solved.

### **Pakistani Economy**

**Q.** Mr. President, what economic incentive would you offer to Pakistan during the forthcoming visit?

**The President.** Well, trade is very important. And one of the steps on a robust trading relationship is what's called the Bilateral Investment Treaty, and that's an important part of the process. And believe me, every time the President talks to me, he's talking about markets, and I understand that. But he also understands that there's some steps needed before this robust trade.

I must applaud the President's vision for the Pakistan economy. And in our world, politics, there's a lot of talk and a lot of, kind of, big noise. But the truth of the matter is, what matters is results. And Pakistan's economy is strong, and that's good news. That's really good news for the people of Pakistan. First and foremost, because, obviously, if people can make a living and do well, they can see the benefits of democracy—tangible benefits of living in a system where people are free to express themselves, but where the marketplace is the economic determinant.

### **War on Terror**

**Q.** Coming to another subject, what strategy the United States has adopted for conquering terrorism in Pakistan, in a very holistic manner?

**The President.** First of all, freedom defeats an ideology of hatred. And the enemy—I say “the enemy” because they'll kill—they—innocent Pakistanis; they kill innocent Americans. We need—more Muslims have died at the hands of Al Qaida and these extremists than anybody else. These—I don't view these people as religious people. I view them as people who have taken a great religion and kind of twisted it to meet their means.

And so they have a vision. And it's not a vision—it's a vision that doesn't recognize the freedom of people to worship. It's a vision that doesn't understand the—that recognize

the importance of women in society or free speech. And so the way to defeat that vision is with a better vision, more hopeful, and democracy provides that vision.

We are in close coordination, of course, with the Government of Pakistan. We share a mutual interest. Nobody should want foreign fighters in their soil wreaking havoc. And it's hard for a part of a country to develop if there are people in that part of the country that are willing to kill innocent life to achieve an objective. And so we share short-term objectives with the Pakistani Government. We also share the long-term objective, and that is—that's freedom.

**Q.** Thank you very much, Mr. President.

**The President.** I'm looking forward to the trip. And I really appreciate you coming.

**Q.** Thank you very much. I'm grateful and honored.

**The President.** Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview was taped at approximately 11:20 a.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast and was embargoed by the Office of the Press Secretary until 9:00 p.m. In his remarks, the President referred to President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### **The President's Radio Address**

*February 25, 2006*

Good morning. On Sunday and Monday, I will meet with America's Governors during their annual gathering in Washington, DC. As a former Governor, I appreciate the work of these fine public servants. I look forward to talking with them about the challenges and opportunities facing their States and our Nation and discussing how leaders of both parties can work together to solve problems for our citizens.

One of the most important issues we will discuss is how to improve health care for the American people, and we have a good example in the Medicare system that provides health care coverage for our seniors. When I took office, I found a Medicare system that would pay tens of thousands of dollars for

a surgery but not the money for the prescription drugs that could have prevented the surgery in the first place. So working with Congress, we passed critical legislation that modernizes Medicare, provides seniors with more choices, and gives them better access to prescription drugs.

More than 25 million people with Medicare now have prescription drug coverage, and hundreds of thousands more are enrolling each week. This new coverage is saving seniors money on their drug premiums. The typical senior will end up spending about half of what they used to spend on prescription drugs each year.

Another issue I will discuss with Governors is how to keep America the most innovative and competitive nation in the world. In my State of the Union Address, I announced the American Competitiveness Initiative. Under this initiative, we will double the Federal commitment to the most critical basic research in the physical sciences over the next decade. We will also make the research and development tax credit permanent to encourage businesses and entrepreneurs to increase their investments in innovation. These investments will lead to new technologies that will offer a better life for our citizens and keep our economy strong.

My Competitiveness Initiative will also give American children a firm grounding in math and science to prepare them for the jobs of the 21st century. I propose that we train 70,000 additional high school teachers over the next 5 years to lead Advanced Placement courses in math and science and bring in 30,000 math and science professionals to teach in classrooms and give extra help to students who struggle with math. By ensuring that our children are prepared to succeed in life, we will ensure that America's economy succeeds in the world.

When I meet the Governors, I will also talk about our energy strategy. I propose an Advanced Energy Initiative to take advantage of new technologies. Under this initiative, we will change how we power our homes and offices by investing in clean coal technology, solar and wind power, and clean, safe nuclear energy. And we will change how we power our cars and trucks by investing in hybrid vehicles, pollution-free cars that run on hy-

drogen, and alternative fuels like ethanol and biodiesel. By applying the talent and innovative spirit of our citizens, we will move beyond a petroleum-based economy, protect our environment, and make America less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

I'll also discuss with Governors our progress in the war on terror. The States are playing a vital role in the war effort through the contributions of their National Guard units. During the past 2 years, many Governors have traveled to Iraq or Afghanistan to visit with the men and women from their States who are serving in freedom's cause. These Governors have seen firsthand the courage of our troops and their dedication to the mission. Last month, Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee visited Iraq and Afghanistan with three of his fellow Governors. He said, "People back home need to realize just how proud they should be of our men and women here. It is obvious these troops remain upbeat and focused on ridding the world of terrorists."

To improve health care, keep America competitive, achieve greater energy independence, and protect our Nation, we must put aside politics and focus on what is best for the future of our country. America's Governors are good allies in this effort, and I look forward to working with them in the year ahead.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on February 24 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 24 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## **Remarks at a Dinner for the Nation's Governors**

*February 26, 2006*

Good evening. Welcome to the White House. Laura and I are glad you're here. We really look forward to this evening. It's good to see some old friends, and I want to welcome two new Governors—Governor Corzine and Governor Tim Kaine. It happens